

Amendments to the Claims:

Please enter the following amendments to the claims, with insertions indicated by underlining and deletions by strikethrough.

1-18. (canceled)

19. (Withdrawn) A method of data analysis comprising: capturing a plurality of calibration images using an imager, the image comprising a plurality of pixels; obtaining a plurality of pixel signals for each of the plurality of calibration images; creating an average interpolation function to produce interpolated average signal values for the imager; and creating an interpolation function for each pixel to produce interpolated signal values for the pixel.

20. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 19, wherein each of the plurality of calibration images is at a different exposure level.

21. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 19, wherein the exposure levels for the calibration images are spaced evenly over a range of exposure levels.

22. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 19, wherein the average interpolation function and the interpolation function for each pixel are based on linear interpolation.

23. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 19, further comprising: capturing a test image at a test exposure level; obtaining a plurality of pixel signals for the test image; and producing a plurality of corrected pixel signal values for the test image.

24. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 23, wherein producing the plurality of corrected signal values for the test image comprises multiplying each of the plurality of pixel signals by the average interpolation function for the imager divided by the interpolation function for the pixel.

25. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 23, further comprising producing a plurality of leveled signal values for the plurality of corrected signal values.

26. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 25, wherein producing the plurality of leveled signal values for the plurality of corrected signal values comprises: producing a histogram of the plurality of corrected signal values; determining a high threshold and a low threshold for the histogram; and determining leveled signal values based on comparisons between the corrected test signals and the high threshold and low threshold.

27. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 26, further comprising setting a leveled signal value for a pixel to zero if a corrected test signal value for the pixel is less than the low threshold.

28. (Withdrawn) A machine-readable medium having stored thereon data representing sequences of instructions that, when executed by a processor, cause the processor to perform operations comprising: receiving a plurality of pixel signal values for each of a plurality of calibration images captured by an imager; creating an average interpolation function to produce interpolated average signal values for the imager; and creating an interpolation function for each pixel to produce interpolated signal values for the pixel.

29. (Withdrawn) The medium of claim 28, further comprising instructions that, when executed by the processor, cause the processor to perform operations comprising: producing leveled signal values for the plurality of corrected signal values.

30. (Withdrawn) The medium of claim 29, wherein producing leveled signal values for the plurality of corrected signal values comprises: producing a histogram of the corrected signal values; determining a high threshold and a low threshold for the histogram; and determining leveled signal values based on comparisons between the corrected test signals and the high threshold and low threshold.

31. (Withdrawn) The medium of claim 30, further comprising instructions that, when executed by the processor, cause the processor to perform operations comprising: setting a leveled signal value for a pixel to a depth value for the imager multiplied times a difference between the corrected test signal for the pixel and the low threshold and divided by a difference between the

high threshold and the low threshold if the corrected signal value for the pixel is greater than or equal to the low threshold and less than or equal to the high threshold.

32. (Original) A total optical assay device comprising: a light-tight casing with a lid; a stage below the lid, the stage to hold slides or microtiter well plates; a focusing lens below the stage; an imaging device below the lens, the imaging device arranged to obtain optical images of slides or microtiter well plates on the stage; a base to hold the imaging device in position; and a cooling device.

33. (Original) The device of claim 32, further comprising a machine readable medium having stored thereon data representing sequences of instructions that, when executed by a processor, cause the processor to perform operations comprising: receiving a plurality of pixel signal values for each of a plurality of calibration images captured by an imager; creating an average interpolation function to produce interpolated average signal values for the imager; and creating an interpolation function for each pixel to produce interpolated signal values for the pixel according to claim 28.

34. (Withdrawn) An optical assay device comprising: a circular disk to fit into a well of a microtiter plate; a probe-binding membrane attached to the bottom of the disk; a stem attached to the top of the disk; and a handle attached to the top of the stem.

35. (Withdrawn) The device of claim 34, wherein the membrane is rayon, cellophane or translucent nitrocellulose.

36. (Withdrawn) The device of claim 34, further comprising a multiplicity of spots bound to the lower surface of the membrane.

37. (Canceled)

38. (New) The device of claim 32, wherein the imaging device comprises a CMOS imaging system.
39. (New) The device of claim 32, wherein the imaging device comprises a CCD (charge coupled device) imaging system.
40. (New) The device of claim 32, wherein the slides or microtiter well plates are transparent or translucent when viewed from below the stage.
41. (New) The device of claim 32, wherein the stage contains depressions that may be used to align a slide or microtiter well plate that fits into the depression.
42. (New) The device of claim 39, wherein the CCD imaging system comprises a CCD camera.
43. (New) The device of claim 32, wherein the cooling device comprises a Peltier heat exchange element.
44. (New) The device of claim 32, wherein the cooling device comprises a fan to remove hot air from the casing interior.